

Appln. No. 09/267,398
Amdt. dated August 7, 2003
Reply to Non-Compliant Amendment dated July 10, 2003

REMARKS

Claim 1-22 are pending in this application and claim 1, 4, and 20-22 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the Applicants regard as their invention. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **February 13, 2003**.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to certain elements in the drawings as not being described in the specification.

Regarding figure 7, the Examiner asserts that element "83b" is not described in the specification. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration the reference to element "83b" has been deleted from figure 7. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to figure 7 is respectively requested.

Regarding figure 12, the Examiner asserts that element "S21" is not described the specification. The examiner's objection is respectfully traversed since step "S21" finds support on page 21, line 11 of the specification. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to figure 12 is respectively requested.

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Regarding figure 14, the Examiner asserts that step "S41" is not described in the specification. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration page 23, line 15 of the specification has been amended to read "When cursor key 86c or 86d is operated in step S 41, ...". Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to figure 14 is respectfully requested.

Regarding figure 15, the Examiner asserts that step "S69" is not described in the specification. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration page 24, line 32 of the specification has been amended to refer to step S69. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to figure 15 is respectfully requested.

Regarding figure 16, the Examiner asserts that step "S81" is not described in the specification. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration page 25, line 32 has been amended to read "... the operator operate shutterbug and 89 in step S81, CPU 83 applies the image data in ...". Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to figure 16 is respectfully requested.

Regarding figure 17, the Examiner asserts that step "S92" is not described in the specification. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration page 27, line 5 of the specification have been amended to read "... card 82 is synthesized within the still image frame

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in step S92. When operator". Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to figure 17 is respectively requested.

Again regarding figure 17, the Examiner asserts that step "S93" is not described in the specification. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration page 27, line 6 of the specification is amended to read "... operates cursor key 86a or 86b at this time in step S93, the partial still image is...". Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to figure 17 is respectively requested.

Again regarding figure 17, the Examiner asserts that step "S103" is not described in the specification. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration page 27, line 25 of the specification is amended to read "When determination key 88 is pressed in step S103 with desired two still images." Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to figure 17 is respectively requested.

Regarding figure 18, the Examiner asserts that step "S107" is not described in the specification. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration page 28, line 10 of the specification is amended to read "When the operator operates the shutter button 89 in step S107, CPU 83 performs... ". Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to figure 18 is respectively requested.

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The Examiner has objected to page 13, line 31 since multiplier 22i is not shown in figure 8. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration page 13, line 31 of the specification is amended to read "... indirectly imported to [multiplier 22i and input to] multiplier 75h delayed by one...". Therefore, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the title as being non-descriptive. Taking the Examiner's comments and consideration, a new title is hereby submitted. Therefore withdrawal of the objection to the title is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Claims

Claims 4 and 20-22 are objected to because of informalities. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration Claims 4 and 20-22 have been amended. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to the Claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Kato.

Kato describes a camera control device suitable for use in a videoconferencing setting in which the camera panning, tilting and zooming is controlled based upon two images displayed

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on a screen. Specifically, a first image is the maximum image visible based on maximum wide angle zoom capable by the camera. The second image is a rectangular portion of the first image. The camera is able to move based on the position of the second image.

The present invention is a stand-alone camera capable of cropping images based on selecting a portion of an image displayed on the screen. The portion of the images selected is based upon placing two vertical lines and two horizontal lines on the screen to form a rectangle.

The rectangle formed is smaller than the image on the screen and can be moved throughout the screen.

The Kato reference discloses a device providing a motion and a partial region in the still picture. However, the motion window provided at a region of the still picture is provided in accordance with the moving directions of the video camera. It differs from the method of the present invention by which a motion picture or a through picture is formed.

Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon, by reciting,

“A digital camera, comprising: image pickup means for picking up an image of an object; a monitor for displaying an image; first forming means responsive to a motion image frame forming instruction by an operator for forming a motion image frame smaller than a monitor frame on said monitor; and motion image display means for displaying a motion image of said object picked up by said image pickup means in said motion image frame, wherein the motion image frame is formed at a first point in the top left position of the monitor frame and a second point in the bottom right position of the monitor frame to form a rectangle.” (Emphasis Added)

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Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 8-11 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Kato is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sarbadhikari.

Sarbadhikari describes an electronic imaging system having a digital camera, a computer system and a storage device. The storage device is used to store images taken from the camera and contains preloaded graphics which may be combined with the images taken by the digital camera.

The Sarbadhikari reference discloses an electronic imaging system that is capable of synthesizing images using a template. The size, position, and shape of the region displaying a captured image in the template are preset for each template, and cannot be set arbitrarily by the user as in the present invention.

Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon, by reciting,

“A digital camera, comprising: image pickup means for picking up an image of an object; a monitor for displaying an image; first forming means responsive to a motion image frame forming instruction by an operator for forming a motion image frame smaller than a monitor frame on said monitor; and motion image display means for displaying a motion image of said object picked up by said image pickup means in said motion image frame, wherein the motion

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image frame is formed at a first point in the top left position of the monitor frame and a second point in the bottom right position of the monitor frame to form a rectangle.” (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5-7 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sarbadhikari is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sarbadhikari in view of Shibata.

Shibata describes a teleconferencing system in which a minor frame area may be placed in a corner of a major frame area for viewing.

The Shibata reference discloses an AV meeting terminal that can display a reception motion picture had a region of a received still picture. The region where the reception motion picture is to be displayed is preset, and cannot be set arbitrarily by the user as in the present invention.

Claims 4 is allowable by virtue of its dependence upon allowable independent claim. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 4 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sarbadhikari in view of Shibata is respectfully requested.

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Claims 12, 13, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato in view of Sarbadhikari.

Kato describes a camera control device suitable for use in a videoconferencing setting in which the camera panning, tilting and zooming is controlled based upon two images displayed on a screen. Specifically, a first image is the maximum image visible based on maximum wide angle zoom capable by the camera. The second image is a rectangular portion of the first image. The camera is able to move based on the position of the second image.

The Kato reference discloses a device providing a motion and a partial region in the still picture. However, the motion window provided at a region of the still picture is provided in accordance with the moving directions of the video camera. It differs from the method of the present invention by which a motion picture or a through picture is formed.

Sarbadhikari describes an electronic imaging system having a digital camera, a computer system and a storage device. The storage device is used to store images taken from the camera and contains preloaded graphics which may be combined with the images taken by the digital camera.

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The Sarbadhikari reference discloses an electronic imaging system that is capable of synthesizing images using a template. The size, position, and shape of the region displaying a captured image in the template are preset for each template, and cannot be set arbitrarily by the user as in the present invention.

Claim 20 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon, by reciting,

“A digital camera having a recording mode for recording a through image of an object picked up through an optical system, a reproducing mode for reproducing a second recorded image, and an image synthesizing mode for generating a synthesized image of the through image and the reproduced image, comprising: image display means for displaying an image; setting means for setting, in said image synthesizing mode, a through image display area on a part of a reproduced image displayed by said image display means; image synthesizing means for generating said synthesized image by displaying the through image on the through image display area set by said setting means; and recording means for recording the synthesized image generated by said image synthesizing means, wherein the through image is formed at a first point on the object in a top left position picked up through the optical system and intersecting at a second point on the object in a bottom right position picked up through the optical system to form a rectangle.” (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 12, 13, 20 and 21 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato in view of Sarbadhikari is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-22, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures: Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections w/Figs marked in red ink

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